



## ALEXANDRIA:

MONDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 24, 1860.

We doubt, says the Louisville Journal, if the case against secession has ever been put with greater power or felicity than by Mr. Bell, in a letter addressed to a mass meeting convened at Knoxville, Tenn., in 1856. In that letter he held the following emphatic language, though only tantamount to that used by the Hon. Wm. R. King, of Alabama, the Democratic candidate for the Vice Presidency in 1852:

"It may be asked in what does the safety of the country consist? I answer in the preservation of the Union. In every aspect in which I am able to view the subject I regard the dissolution of the Union as the direct calamity which can befall the people—the people of the South as well as of the North. It is fashionable to state some exceptions to the general truth. I am prepared to state none within the range of probable events. I admit the possible occurrence of a state of things, in the operation of the Federal Government, which would be a greater evil than the destruction of the Union. A glaring tyranny, an oppressive and persistent violation of plain and unquestionable constitutional obligations, or a similar disregard of constitutional limitations in the exercise of the majority, on subjects of vital interest to the minority, would be a virtual abrogation of the basic of union, and justify a resort to revolutionary remedies. I use the terms revolutionary remedies in reference to the possible oppressions of a majority in wielding the Legislative and Executive powers of the Government, because I have no faith in the political metaphysics of those who seek to establish a peaceful mode of breaking up the Union by deducting from the Constitution a right of secession in the States. I regard such a doctrine as equally unsound, delusive and mischievous, because it can have no efficiency in preventing civil war; and mischievous, because it tends to mislead and seduce the people of a State into a revolutionary measure for insufficient cause, under the false idea of immunity from the ordinary hazard of a revolt against an established Government."

In publishing the speech delivered in the Senate in 1850, by Mr. Bell, in which he gave his views on the Slavery subject in all its aspects, the National Intelligencer says: "Search the debates of Congress on this exciting subject from 1790 down to the present time; examine diligently the speeches of the most distinguished leaders of the Southern Democracy—Mr. Calhoun and his coadjutors—over all that has been said and written by the whole tribe of Southern politicians who have made it a part of their business, in season and out of season, to instill into the Southern ear doubts and suspicions of Mr. Bell's soundness on the slavery question; and say if among them all there can be found so masterly a refutation of the accretory charges as that of the people of the South on account of the existence in their midst of the institution of African slavery."

The Hon. James French Strother died at his residence in Culpeper County, on Friday morning last, about 8 o'clock. Mr. Strother, several years since, represented in Congress, the 7th Congressional District of Virginia, of which this county then formed a part, and proved an efficient and popular representative. He was an accomplished debater, an able and upright statesman and a dignified and courteous gentleman. His death will be heard with much regret throughout the country, and will cause profound sorrow among the circle of friends, to whom he was known intimately, and who admired him for his talents, and loved him for his many social and domestic virtues.

The New York Express, referring to the recent rejection of Eli Thayer by a Republican nominating Convention in Massachusetts, in order to take up a more *allot* man—says:—"As the French put off Mirabeau to put on the Girondins, and afterwards, Danton, Marat and Robespierre, so Republicans in Massachusetts are now trying to kill Federal officers by the execution of Federal laws, into Personal Liberty Nullification Bills and John Brown candidates for Governors, last of all, to swap off a Girondist like Eli Thayer for some as yet unknown Marat or Danton. The crime of Thayer is in being practical, not theoretical. He does not believe in howling against slavery among the cold hills of Massachusetts but in settling down among it, as in Kansas and Virginia."

The Washington States and Union, in referring to the recent statements of Senator Trumbull, (to the effect that Judge Douglas had endeavored to procure admission into the Republican party, under a promise if so admitted, to fight the Republican battles in 1860) says, "that Senator Trumbull's statements, whether upon his own account or second-hand from Mr. Corvode, are in general and detail, false. Mr. Douglas has so pronounced similar statements, over and over again. The remarkable feature in the revival of these calumnies is, that the Breckinridge 'organs' have all at once found great virtues in John Corvode."

It will be remembered that considerable sales of guano from Islands in the Pacific were made last Spring to Southern planters. As crops are beginning to ripen, we now have an opportunity to observe the results. The Mason (Ga.) Telegraph says: "We hear generally favorable accounts of the influence of the American guano upon the crops, notwithstanding that doubts have been expressed in regard to it as a fertilizer."

Edgar Thompson, of the Pennsylvania Central had resigned the Presidency of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company, on account of the demands upon his time and energy by the Pennsylvania Road. The vacant position has been tendered to Colonel A. K. Stevenson, President of the Nashville and Chattanooga Road.

The New York Commercial announces the departure of the Prince of Wales from Canada, and his entrance into the United States, thus—"Exit—Prince of Wales.—Enter—Baron Renfrew. The *Sea* crosses the *Line*."

The Louisville Democrat says:—"The Constitution, the organ published at Washington, says Mr. Breckinridge stands before the country the representative of great principles and a great party. The principles are not believed very great by his party; for they voted it not necessary to carry them out; and the great party is not visible, particularly the greatness."

The Washington States keeps at its head, two standing queries, addressed to the Washington Constitution, to wit:—"1. Does it consider Lincoln's election just cause for breaking up the Union? 2. Does it believe in the right of peaceable secession without cause?" So far, we believe, the States and Union has failed to extract an answer.

The New York Commercial asks why politicians do not always act as gentlemen? As politics are but opinions, and opinions upon other matters, men are accustomed to discuss with calmness and courtesy, it does not seem why there should be harshness, loss of temper and ungentlemanly conduct, when politics are the subject of argument.

The confagration at Fort Smith, Arkansas, on the 20th, mentioned in the telegraphic dispatches in Saturday's Gazette, was a very disastrous one. The value of the buildings which were destroyed was about \$10,000, and of merchandise, furniture, &c., about \$100,000 more. The post-office, with 400 letters, is among the ruins.

The New York Herald advertises for sale the Maryland oyster beds, covered by the Miles & Co. warrants. There will be some trouble in buyers reducing them to possession.

Mr. Shackelford the Bell and Everett Elector for this District, is doing good service. Everywhere his speeches make an impression, and he handles the political topics of the day with vigor and ability.

The hull of the Lady Elgin, supposed to have been carried down by the weight of the engine, has risen to the surface and rides at anchor, marking the spot where its 300 passengers were down.

The white population of St. Mary's county, Md., is estimated at upwards of 14,000; in 1850 it was 13,698. Number of slaves now 6,000; number in 1850, 5,856.

Mr. Robert Chambers, the eminent Scotch author and publisher, is about to visit the United States, and is expected here some time next week.

Lady Franklin is visiting different towns in Canada. She will probably visit the United States.

Leonard Scott & Co., New York, have republished the September number of Blackwood's Magazine. It contains articles on Sir Robert Peel, The Tower of London, King Arthur and his Round Table, &c., &c. Robert Bell, Agent.

## FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The Madrid papers are beginning to discuss what is to be the future personal situation of the King of Naples, and it is curious enough that the legitimist journals, which have hitherto denied the possibility of his dethronement, seem to be disposed to deny him that hospitality which the organs of the liberal party would have no objection to grant him. The Spanish Government, however, appears to have settled this question affirmatively; at least, a Madrid despatch to the London papers states that Queen Isabella has placed the palace at Saville at the disposal of her Royal cousin. Should Francis II., says the Times, "avail himself of this kind offer, it will be an edifying spectacle to see the son of that monarch who, whilst he sat on the throne, refused to receive the representatives of the other Bourbons, refused for a long while to recognize his niece, Isabella II., and who quarrelled with his own sister, Queen Christina, for her share in the dynastic revolution, now accepting a refuge in Spain."

Dr. Jeannel (Repetoire de Pharmacie) says he has found that a few drops of the essential oil of bitter almonds will completely mask the nauseous fishy smell and taste in some cases of cod-liver and castor oils. Also, that cod-liver oil, shaken up with an equal volume of laurel water, and left to rest for forty-eight hours before separation, acquired by this simple operation an extremely sweet perfume and agreeable taste of almonds—the taste remaining in the mouth as long as the digestion lasts.

The intelligence of the fall of the Bourbon dynasty in the Two Sicilies is accompanied by rumors of severely less importance. An insurrection had broken out in Pescara, in the Roman territory, and the people had defeated the Papal troops. The advance guard of the Piedmontese army had entered the Marches to preserve order. In Venetia, too, a formidable Garibaldian conspiracy had been discovered. Austria is making immense defensive preparations in her Italian territories.

Rev. J. Chandler Ganguly, a Brahmin convert to the Unitarian faith, recently delivered a lecture in London. In the course of his address the reverend gentleman corrected some popular errors concerning the Ganges and successful progress, is without exception, said, for a devotee to cast himself under the wheels of the car. Accidents sometimes happened, and people were killed in the crush; but Juggernaut demanded no human sacrifice. He was the Brahmin god of love, peace, and mercy.

Preparations have been completed for the destruction of an immense chalk cliff, a short distance from Chatham, Eng. The quantity of gunpowder to be used is 1,000 lbs. Two immense shafts have been bored down into the solid chalk. From the base of the shafts longitudinal galleries have been driven into the cliff in various directions to receive the powder, and the charges will be fired simultaneously by a battery stationed half a mile off.

The tunnel under Mont Cenis, the works of which have been for some time in actual progress, is without exception, the most gigantic individual work that railways have given rise to. It is about seven miles and a half long, and the depth of the tunnel is about 2,000 feet below the surface of the mountains.

On the 23rd of July the Princess Isabel of Brazil attained her majority, and, amidst great rejoicing, took the oath of office, which constitutes her the Empress of Brazil in case of the death of the present Emperor, Don Pedro II., her father.

The city of Jeddo, the capital of Japan, is said to be, without exception, the largest city in the world. It contains one million five hundred and one thousand dwellings, and the unparalleled number of five million inhabitants.

There are 20,000 idiots in Great Britain, many of them in Asylums while many live at their homes. An institution has been just opened at Lansdowne House, Greenwich, for the training of idiots of the upper classes.

## NEWS OF THE DAY.

"To show the very age and body of the times."

The Protestant Episcopal Church in Illinois, appears to have gotten into an unfortunate "snarl" at Chicago, resulting, it would seem, from the really unreasonable conduct of the Bishop of that Diocese—Bishop Whitehouse, formerly of St. Thomas Church, New York. The first cause of dissatisfaction between the Bishop and his flock was the refusal of the former to change his residence from New York to Illinois, after his election to the Bishopric in November, 1851. But the "apple of discord" among the Illinois Episcopalians is a "six thousand dollar matter."

The recent action of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Buffalo, in relation to the question of slavery, continues a topic of discussion amongst the various congregations of that body in Baltimore. Thus far a number of the churches have held meetings of the laity, and appointed delegates to represent them in the Convention which is to assemble shortly. The members of the city station, embracing four churches, and by far the most influential charge, have held several meetings, at which the subject was gravely and calmly discussed. They have not yet appointed delegates.

A well-known merchant of Philadelphia, Mr. John C. Weber, died very suddenly on Wednesday night, at Rev. Albert Barnes' church, in Washington square, while a prayer meeting was in progress. During the singing of a hymn he was observed to be fanning himself nervously, as though suffering from intense heat. Soon after, he commenced breathing heavily and foaming at the mouth. Several gentlemen immediately hurried to his assistance, and he was carried to the school room, but before he had reached it he was dead.

A Boston gentleman is thus mentioned in an article written at Halifax, at the time of the Prince's reception: "Mayor Lincoln, of Boston, produced a strong impression in favor of American gentlemen by his courteous and dignified bearing; and we are told that the Duke of Newcastle, pointing at him, asked Consul Pillsbury if he was a fair specimen of Boston gentlemen, and it so, said the Duke, Boston must be a city of fine gentlemen, and Mayor Lincoln a credit to the city."

Some time since the General Assembly of Maryland passed a resolution authorizing the presentation of a sword to Col. Dixon S. Miles, in testimony of his gallant services during the late war with Mexico. The order was given to Mr. Samuel Jackson, and he has just finished a sword, which for appropriateness of design, quality of material used, and excellence of workmanship, we do not believe has ever been surpassed in this country.

Oliver Johnson, editor of the New York Anti-Slavery Standard, having been summoned to serve on a jury, presented as an excuse for not serving that he is held by public opinion to be crazy because he is the editor of a paper which advocates the immediate abolition of slavery, and the dissolution of the American Union as a covenant of death and an agreement with hell.

On Monday afternoon, two young men went into the Liberty Bank, at Providence, Rhode Island, and attempted to go behind the counter, but being opposed by Marius W. Gardner, jr., a clerk, they threw some spirits of harshness in his face, thinking to blind or suffocate him. Mr. Gardner, however, made an outcry, and the fellows ran off but were soon arrested.

Dr. Tucker (Maryland Medical Journal, July), has no faith in brain bread, rye bread, &c., as remedies in dyspepsia. They are commonly supposed to exert a good influence by keeping the bowels open by their mechanical effect of irritation; but it is an absurd idea to give indigestible bran to a stomach already weakened, and whose complaint is that it cannot digest.

The regular passenger train bound west on the Racine and Mississippi railroad last Friday evening, having on board excursionists returning from the county fair at Elkhorn, was run into by an extra train, which was following. One car was smashed in pieces, and five persons killed, and some thirty more or less injured.

The estimable wife of the Right Rev. Wm. Green, Bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi, says the Vicksburg Whig, died at the Bishopric, near Jackson, on the 9th inst. Her funeral took place on the following morning. A host of friends sympathize with the Bishop in his bereavement.

The Charleston Courier says: "The Irish Jewish mission, on hearing of the breaking up of their mission in Dananusa, and of the sad murder of the Rev. Mr. Graham in the streets of that city, promptly voted ten thousand dollars for the relief of the mission and the aid of the converts connected with it."

The silk culture is to be added to the industrial pursuits of California. It is ascertained that the climate is warmer and more applicable to the culture of the silk worm than that of France, where they succeed admirably, and that the silk worm of Japan will stand the best chance in that climate.

The Catholics of Boston have just purchased a lot, corner of Washington and Malden streets, on which to erect a new cathedral. The amount to be paid for the lot is \$27,000. The cost of the cathedral will be about \$100,000 and \$500,000, and the time of construction three to four years.

There is to be a new bond of union between Tennessee and Kentucky. A railroad has been projected between Louisville and Memphis, and is now completed as far as Clarksville, Tennessee. On Wednesday it was opened. It is thought it will be completed through to Memphis in February.

Prof. Bache and several other officers of the Coast Survey are now encamped on Wachusett Mountain, Massachusetts. As this eminence is unobstructed by any other highland, it can be seen at Cape Cod, a hundred miles distant. Boston harbor can be seen from the mountain in a clear day.

During the week just closed there was paid into the Treasury at Washington the sum of \$1,177,000. It may be mentioned, as an indication of the rate at which Uncle Sam is getting rich, that this week he received \$200,000 more than he was paid during the week previously ended.

An immense quantity of grain is now held in freight cars on the tracks of the Central railroad, near Albany. One of the trains thus loaded is about a mile in length, and it is sometimes two and three days before a car load is sold before it can be delivered.

A person by the name of Kreig has been swindling some of the respectable German residents of Detroit by calling himself a son of the Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, and representing himself as the possessor of immense wealth in Europe.

It is stated that the New York district attorney has obtained from the bondsmen of the late naval officer Buken \$17,141 of the amount due him by Government. Mr. Buken was naval officer under Fillmore.

At Buffalo Sept. 21, the receipts of wheat amounted to eight hundred and fifty thousand bushels—the largest amount ever received in a single day.

The Philadelphia Commissioners of Public Buildings have been awarded to John McArthur, Jr., the contract for erecting the new City Hall, of Pennsylvania white marble, like the Merchants' Exchange, at a cost of about one and a quarter millions of dollars.

The Artisans' Bank of New York, has voluntarily withdrawn from the Association of City Banks in the Clearing-house; the result of the order passed by the Association a few days since for a re-examination of the affairs of the bank.

It appears that the Prince of Wales is under a promise to be back in England by the end of October, and has therefore been compelled to give up his contemplated trip to Bermuda.

The Milwaukee Sentinel says there are now a thousand orphans in that city, rendered so by the Lady Elgin calamity. Many of these children are thrown upon the charity of the community.

The sum of \$15,000 per day is expended in New York for oysters.—Boston Her. Yes—More or less, we suppose.

The Universalist Convention which met in Boston last week, adjourned on Thursday. No very important business was transacted.

## VIRGINIA NEWS.

Professor Wise the groom landed in Charles City county, at Curf's Neck, on a farm belonging to Wm. Allen, esq., on Friday evening, about forty minutes after 6 o'clock, on his aerial voyage from Petersburg.

He was trying to go to Richmond, but unfortunately his balloon burst, it having been injured by striking against the corner of the gas house, while being inflated. Although the balloon burst and descended much against the wishes of the Professor, it still retained enough gas to prevent it from descending with great rapidity, but it being at an altitude of some eight hundred feet, when it burst, it gave the Professor a considerable shock when it struck the ground. It very fortunately fell in an open field, though it had caused the Professor considerable alarm, he fearing that it would land him in James River. The balloon gained at one time, an altitude of one mile from the earth.

Through the kindness of a friend, we were shown yesterday a letter from Col. R. H. Allen, who resides near Macfarland's Post-office, Lunenburg county, Va. He stated in his letter that it was the general impression in his neighborhood that there is an insurrectionary movement among the negroes of the county. They are supposed to be led on in their hellish designs by abolitionist emissaries. The negroes have been heard to say that they would all be free before Christmas.

Several of the supposed leaders in the movement were to have been arrested yesterday in the hope that the full particulars will be divulged.—Petersburg Bulletin.

The Frederickburg News says:—"The Mother of Washington never lived at Kenmore. Her daughter, who married Colonel Lewis, lived there, and the old Lady could go and come as she pleased, and kept most people in wholesome awe of her. Her monument is actually over her remains instead of over somebody else's, as has been profane ly reported. An old citizen, who attended her funeral and noticed the peculiar coffin, described it, and they dug until he saw and recognized it before the corner-stone was laid."

The census shows Hancock County to have a population of 4,413 whites, 1 free negro and 2 slaves. Total 4,415. Prince George County, there are 2,420 whites, 1 free negro and 5,002 slaves. Total 8,422. Powhatan County, has a population of 2,925 whites, 422 free negroes, and 4,584 slaves. Total 8,931. Marion County, has 12,672 whites, 2 free negroes and 65 slaves. Total 12,737. Brooke County, has a population of 5,443 whites, 43 free negroes, 18 slaves. Total 5,504.

The Warrenton Whig says:—"Mr. Stanfield, a young gentleman who formerly lived in Warrenton, has purchased from Mr. Deschields, his house on Main street, now occupied by Mr. English as a store house and Mrs. Pigg as a dwelling house, for \$2,500. Mr. S. will open a dry goods establishment next Spring in the same house. Mr. Mytinger, has purchased the house he now lives in, on Main street, next to the Methodist Church, for \$1,500."

An Episcopal clergyman in Fairfax county, Virginia, in acknowledging the receipt of a letter from the Southern Anti-Slavery Society, remarks:—"One of my most interesting points of labor is Old Polish Church, the parish church, near Mount Vernon, of which General Washington was a vestryman, and in which he worshipped. It is very much dilapidated, and we purpose making an appeal for help in putting it in complete repair."

The Fall term of Caroline Circuit Court, says the Frederickburg News, commenced on Tuesday last. On Monday next, Stafford begins, and on Monday fortnight, Spotsylvania. There is one criminal case in Caroline, two in Spotsylvania and none in Stafford to be tried. The Issue Dockets of all the Courts heretofore are small. The Circuit Court of King George sat precisely one hour and a half.

The Richmond Examiner says: "Our corner Lehighville called an extraordinary session of the Legislature, to meet in January, for the purpose of considering the subject of the sale of the James River and Kanawha Canal to a company of French capitalists, it is thought by well informed persons that there will be found enough business of importance requiring attention as will consume the time of members till some time in April."

Col. Thomas P. August of Richmond, has received the appointment from the Governor of Virginia, of Brigadier General of the Second Brigade, Fourth Division, Virginia Militia. Lieut. Col. P. T. Moore has been elected Colonel of the First Regiment Virginia Volunteers. Richmond, vice Col. August, promoted. Major W. H. Fry has been elected Lieut. Colonel.

The Stockholders of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad at their annual meeting, which was held in the city last week, adopted the following resolution:—Resolved, That members of the various Agricultural Societies of Virginia, who may attend the Fair of said Societies, be passed over this Road for half fare.

Dr. Samuel A. Patterson, of Chesterfield, died at his residence in Manchester, on Thursday evening last. The deceased bore, through a long professional career, a most enviable reputation as a physician, while as a man, no one enjoyed to a higher degree the confidence of the community in which he lived.

The Fredericksburg News says:—"Wednesday was County Court day at Stafford. It being a monthly term no business of a public character was done, save the trial of Thomas Wines for stabbing Thomas Masters, which resulted in sending the prisoner on for final trial before the Circuit Court, which sits next Monday."

Mr. Thomas Grigg, an eminent citizen of Charlottesville, Va., died on the 16th inst., at the advanced age of 82. The deceased was for many years President of the Branch of the Valley Bank of Virginia, at Charlottesville.

A revival of religion is now in progress at Harper's Ferry, in the M. E. Church which is being crowned and blessed with the most cheering and happy results.

## POLITICAL.

Mr. YANCEY IN WASHINGTON.—Mr. Yancey, of Alabama, was serenaded and "called out" in Washington, on Friday night last. The National Intelligencer says:—"Dr. Boyle, President of the Breckinridge Club, addressed the assemblage that had gathered, and introduced to them the Hon. Wm. L. Yancey, of Alabama, whom he designated the Patrick Henry of the South. Mr. Yancey made an address of half an hour's length upon the subject of the present Presidential contest, the greater part of which was occupied with strongly colored pictures of the dangers and evils that would ensue from Republican sway in the General Government, and equally decided indications of what the South would do in that contingency. In case the South should judge it proper to form a separate Confederation, Mr. Yancey suggested that the seat of its government would be on the summit of Augusta, Georgia. He asked if such raids as that of John Brown, and such arson, robberies, and poisoning of wells as those in Texas were perpetrated under the present Administration, who could conceive what would take place under the administration of Lincoln. A person in the crowd inquired of Mr. Yancey 'what would the South do in case Lincoln was elected?' Mr. Yancey did not give any direct answer, but, repeating nearly the same description of horrors he had just before depicted, said he would leave it to the interrogator himself to say what he would do in such a case. Mr. Yancey expressed himself in favor of fusion, and said that on the North, with its one hundred and eighty-three electoral votes, rested the responsibility of the election, and on her must the consequences, if they should prove to be evil, fall. He spoke of the dependence of the South, and of the dependence of the North, and that it was in the power of the former to bring on such a state of affairs as would make the grass grow in the streets of New York. He disclaimed adherence to the Constitution. He was frequently applauded, but scarcely beyond those standing nearest the speaker. Mr. Secretary Cobb was called upon, but excused himself from any speech, saying only that in the present canvass he would be found on the side of the Constitution, Equality, and the Union. Mr. Howell thanked the assemblage for the purpose of executing his friends' address, and professed himself a supporter of Breckinridge and Lane. The crowd was apparently about three hundred in number."

The Republican Party.—Carl Schurz, one of the leading orators now employed by the party in making Republican speeches in various parts of the country, makes use of the following language:—"There is your declaration of Independence," said he, "a diplomatic dodge; also an angry plea for the purpose of exciting the religious colonies in the eyes of civilized mankind. There is your Declaration of Independence, no longer the sacred code of the rights of man, but a hypocritical piece of special pleading drawn up by a batch of artful politicians, who, when speaking of the rights of men, meant but the privilege of a set of aristocratic slaveholders, but styled it 'the rights of man' in order to throw dust in the eyes of the world, and to inveigle noble-hearted fools into lending them aid and assistance. (Applause.) These are your boasted Revolutionary principles, no longer heroes and sages, but accomplished bunglers and hypocrites, who said one thing and meant another; who passed counterfeited sentiments as genuine, and obtained arms and money and assistance and sympathy on false pretences! There is your great American Revolution, no longer the great champion of universal principles, but a mean, Yankee trick (bursts of applause and laughter)—a wooden nutmeg—the most impudent imposition ever practiced upon the whole world!" (Applause.)

Close connection is unnecessary. This man Schurz, scarcely more than a brief resident of our Republic, thinks himself able to do the characters of the signers of the Declaration, after the "private" Seward and Sumner recipe. Can any man having a modicum of self-respect consent to join the ranks of an organization in which vulgarity and blasphemy are applied to the text, and patriotism itself is made a subject of ridicule and abuse?

The event which is slowly approaching, and which will decide whether we, as a people, are to be satisfied with Republican rule, or again blessed with a liberal and Constitutional Government, should be pondered upon with solemnity by every man who values the safety and sacredness of his hearth or his household.—N. Y. Journal of Commerce.

At a discussion at Staunton, on Tuesday last, Hon. S. F. Locke having alluded to M. G. Harman, esq., in his remarks, at the close of the engagement between Mr. L. and Mr. G., the following colloquy, in substance, took place:

Question by Mr. Harman.—If Lincoln is elected, what do you propose to do? Would you favor his inauguration?

Answer by Mr. Locke.—When the election is announced, it will be time to respond.—(Mr. Locke afterwards declared that he would await an overt act of aggression before counselling resistance.)

Question by Mr. Locke.—Will you vote for Breckinridge and Lane to defeat Lincoln or Bell?

Answer by Mr. Harman.—I can be placed in no position to vote for either, because I shall vote for Douglas, and with the regular Democratic first, last and all the time.

Question.—But if Douglas should die?

Answer by Mr. Harman.—If Douglas and Lane were dead and no one to represent the National Democracy, I would vote for Breckinridge over Bell or Lincoln.—Staunton Virginitian.

Senator Douglas, in his speech, to an immense crowd in Buffalo, N. Y., last week, complimented Clay, Webster, Fillmore, and the Union Whigs and Democrats who took part in the accomplishing of the compromise measures, and maintained that Whigs and Democrats in 1852 and the Americans in 1856 had concurred in maintaining the principle of non-interference by Congress with slavery, and that they had formed the basis of the compromise of 1850. The audience was remarkable for the attention paid to the address, and for the great enthusiasm with which they received the remarks of the speaker. In these respects the demonstration is said to have been more successful than any before made in the State. Mr. Douglas goes next to Ohio, but will visit Dunkirk and other stations on the road.

The Executive Committee of the Constitutional Union party of New Jersey have issued an address to the American voters, begging them to support the Union electoral ticket. They say they have united with the Republicans heretofore, believing that they would strike from their platform their sectional principles, as they did at the Governor's election in 1859, and come back to the old Whig ground, and become a national party. But as they have not done so, the Union party will not support a sectional nomination.

At Stafford Court House, on Wednesday, just before the political meeting, adjourned, three gentlemen, one of each party, took a vote of those remaining in the Court House, and with this result: Bell 22, Breckinridge 17; Douglas 15. Non-committal 2.

THE LETTER OF GOV. SMITH.—In the discussion at Harrisonburg, Rockingham county, on Monday last, (heretofore mentioned by us,) the following letter from Gov. Smith to J. F. Lewis and others was read by Col. Alfred Barbour in his speech.

Washington, March 14th, 1855.  
The General John F. Lewis and others.—Gentlemen:—Your favor of the 10th instant reached me to-day, and in which you express a wish that I should meet Mr. Wise at your April Court, to discuss with him the principles of the American party, &c., &c.

It has been for some time my policy as a public man to bring our fellow citizens together, as a political unit, in view of the impending danger from Northern fanaticism. When Mr. Wise and the Breckinridge, &c., commenced their vindictive war upon the Know Nothing, I deprecated it as a public attitude, calculated, as it was, to isolate a large body of our fellow-citizens from those common sympathies necessary to harmonize us as a whole. When the basis principles of the American party of Virginia was published, I said that they contained a large amount of sound Democratic doctrine, for which I was denounced.—This compelled me to defend myself, which I did by reading the basis principles, and calling upon my accusers to name what they disagreed from as I read. I need not say I easily and fully sustained myself. As to foreigners, I argued that they were a great anti-slavery element of rightful influence. That coming now to the rate of nearly 300,000 a year, and settling almost exclusively in the free States, it increased the representation in Congress against us with appalling rapidity—a rapidity which must soon overwhelm us; and that it was a question far above all partisan politics, addressing itself to the conscience of a nation, and demanding the participation of all her citizens a combined effort to arrest and obstruct this fearful evil. So I have spoken, and with some expansion, and, of course, with much effort.

While however, I shall not hesitate to present these views, and others, in my own defence and in justice to the American party, it would not be becoming in me, as a Democratic candidate for Congress, to go out of my lawful duty to encounter one claiming to be the Democratic candidate for Governor, and I must therefore respectfully decline your suggestion. I am, gentlemen, yours most respectfully,  
WM. SMITH.

We will dissolve the Union, say the Yanceys, if Lincoln is elected. To make that excuse a plausible one, gentlemen, you must first try to defeat Lincoln. You can best him, and if you do not, you commit to the wrong which you intend to seize upon as the excuse for committing a greater wrong. If you want a united South for disunion, first do all you can to save the Union with honor; then if sheer necessity drives you to the last resort, all will be with you, but you can't be permitted to elect Lincoln and then take advantage of your own act to precipitate disunion.—Richmond Whig.

Hon. John J. Crittenden is to visit Nashville, Tennessee, on the 24th inst., and the Union men of that city are preparing to give him a reception in keeping with his honors and services. Mr. Crittenden has not been at Nashville since 1844, when the great Convention was held, and Henry Clay was there with him. The old elm tree where the great orators spoke to the assembled multitude is still pointed out, in the western part of the city.

Senator Brown, of Mississippi, has recently delivered several political speeches to his neighbors and friends. In some remarks made at Crystal Springs, in that State, he is reported to have said, with his characteristic frankness, after some complimentary allusions to Mr. Bell, that he "scorned the party advantages some of his (Mr. Brown's) party were resorting to against that statesman."

The Breckinridge men of St. Mary's County, Md., have determined to hold a monster barbecue on the 2nd of October next. A correspondence has been opened with Gov. Wise, of Virginia, Hon. Wm. L. Yancey, of Alabama, James Alfred Pearce, and S. T. McKelvie, of that State, requesting them to be present and address the people of the county on the occasion of the barbecue.

There will be a Mass Meeting of the friends of Bell and Everett, in Essex county, Va., on next Tuesday, the 25th inst. Quite a number of eminent orators have already signified their purpose to be present and address the people, and we hope that none will fail to comply with their promise. Little Essex is renowned for her devotion to the true faith, under all circumstances.

The Fredericksburg Herald says:—"The Breckinridge Democracy of Stafford have become alarmed at the great Douglas gains in that county and are attempting to head off and crush out the spirit. Accordingly they are to give a Dinner at the Court House, on Friday next week, and Gov. Smith has been invited to speak. Salt, much less Smith, will not save them!"

Hon. Mr. Hamilton, member of Congress from the Western District of Texas, made a speech at Austin, the capital of the State, on the 26th ult. He announced himself for Douglas as his first choice for President, Gen. Houston as a second, and John Bell as a third choice. He denounced the Breckinridge movement in the severest terms, as being for disunion.

The Douglas Democracy of King George County, will be addressed by Messrs. G. H. C. Rowe and George W. Brent, Presidential Electors, on the first Thursday in October next, that being court day.

The Mason (Ga.) Daily Citizen, an excellent Bell and Everett paper, publishes a list of seventeen Democrats of that city who have recently declared for the Constitutional Union candidates.